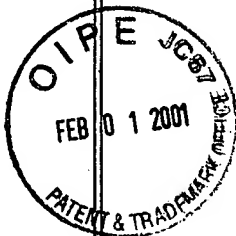


Docket No.
448563/163
LR:laj:me

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant : Minoru Usui et al.
Serial No. : 09/312,073 Art Unit: 2853
Filed : May 13, 1999 Examiner: M. Ngheim
For : INK CARTRIDGE FOR INK-JET PRINTING APPARATUS

January 29, 2001

AMENDMENT AND ELECTION

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the outstanding office action dated November 27, 2000, the period for response having been extended pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), applicants provisionally elect species III (Figs. 7a-11c) for purposes of prosecution. Applicants submit that claims 15-23 and 36-82 read upon the elected species III.

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 74-82.

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Certificate of Mailing (37 C.F.R. 1.8)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on (Date) January 29, 2001.

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

Signature: Lisa A. Jakob